

EVANGELICAL &
ECUMENICAL
WOMEN'S
CAUCUS



NATIONAL OFFICE:

P O Box 9989

OAKLAND, CA 94613-0989

510 / 635-5098

Who Are We?

Evangelical & Ecumenical Women's Caucus (EEWC) is a nonprofit organization of Christian women and men who believe that the Bible supports the basic equality of the sexes. We find that the Scriptures ask both men and women to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ and to exercise their gifts in response to God's call upon their lives. Our purpose, therefore, is to take seriously the claims of the Gospel to transform the whole creation by engaging in religious, charitable, educational, and/or cultural activities to that end.

We see much injustice toward women in our society. The church especially has encouraged men to prideful domination and women to irresponsible passivity. We seek, therefore, to present God's teachings on male-female equality to the whole body of Christ's church and to "call both men and women to mutual submission and active discipleship" (Chicago Declaration of 1973). We also seek to explore theological, social, and cultural implications of biblical feminism.

A loving God created us in the divine image. Because of human sin Jesus Christ came to redeem and renew us and our world, calling us to be disciples. Our goal is to share the good news of biblical feminism with the oppressed as well as the oppressors in the hope of bringing about both individual and institutional change which will glorify Jesus Christ.

In pursuit of this ideal we encourage full discussion of all issues that affect the lives of our sisters and brothers all over the world. Individual EEWC members hold differing opinions on various issues. With respect and love for one another, as Christ commanded us, we seek to be responsible to the God of all creation as revealed in Jesus Christ and in Scripture.

How Did We Originate?

Over Thanksgiving weekend in 1973 a group of socially concerned Christians, later known as Evangelicals for Social Action (ESA), met in Chicago and drafted the historic Chicago Declaration. Among the participants were a few women who were concerned about the inferior status of women in church and society and who called upon the group to consider issues related to sexism.

At ESA's second Thanksgiving consultation in 1974 the women's caucus was one of six task forces formed by participants to study such concerns as racism, sexism, peace, and simpler lifestyles. Thus the original name of this group: Evangelical Women's Caucus. The group presented proposals on a variety of topics, including endorsement of the Equal Rights Amendment, support for inclusive language in Bible translation and Christian materials, affirmation of the ordination of women, and criticism of discriminatory hiring policies in Christian institutions.

The first national conference in 1975 in Washington, D.C., "Women in Transition: A Biblical Approach to Feminism," attracted more than 360 women from 36 states and Canada. Since that time EEWC has held international conferences in Pasadena, CA; Grand Rapids, MI; Saratoga Springs, NY; Seattle, WA; Wellesley, MA; Fresno, CA; Chicago, IL; and San Francisco, CA.

In 1990, in order to reflect the increasingly inclusive nature and many traditions of our membership, we officially changed our name to Evangelical & Ecumenical Women's Caucus.

EEWC is evangelical because we believe that the Gospel is good news for all people. It is ecumenical because we recognize that the Christian faith is expressed through a rich

diversity of traditions. We are committed to women's full equality with men in the home, the church, and the world. We are called a caucus because we grew out of the various caucuses of ESA.

How Are We Organized?

The membership is divided into geographical regions. Local chapters and affiliates organize their own activities and meetings to meet the needs of the persons involved. Each region and each chapter elect representatives to the Executive Council. Officers are chosen from within this group.

How Do I Join EEWC?

Membership in EEWC is open to anyone who supports the basic statement of faith and the purposes of the organization regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, economic status, parenthood, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or disability.

Joining EEWC is a way of expressing unity with biblical feminists across this continent and beyond. It is also a way of enabling EEWC to remain strong and to grow.

Membership entitles you to hold office, voting privileges, discounted registration at conferences, and our newsletter, *Update*. It contains stimulating articles, news, and book reviews pertaining to biblical feminism.

When you join EEWC, your name and address are sent to the chapter or regional representative nearest you. You receive information about local meetings or special events as well as the international conference held every even year.

Call or write the national office for more information.



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*"There is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither slave nor free,
there is neither male nor female;
for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*

Galatians 3:28

Statement of Faith

We believe God is the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of all.

We believe God created all people, female and male, in the divine image for relationship with God and one another.

We further believe our relationship with God was shattered by sin with a consequent disruption of all other relationships.

We believe God in love has made possible a new beginning through the incarnation in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who was and is truly divine and truly human.

We believe the Bible is the Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and is a central guide and authority for Christian faith and life.

We believe the church is the community of women and men who have been divinely called to do God's will, exercising their gifts responsibly in church, home, and society, and looking forward to God's new creation.



EVANGELICAL & ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS
P O Box 9989

OAKLAND, CA 94613-0989



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EVANGELICAL & ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS INFORMATION REFERRAL

If you have friends who would be interested in EEW, we would like to send them information.
Please include their names and addresses with your renewal.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please write your name as you wish it to appear as reference _____

Mail to: PO Box 9989, OAKLAND, CA 94613-0989

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EVANGELICAL & ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

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Church Affiliation _____

____ \$35.00 USA Annual Membership Fee

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From: UfmccHq@aol.com
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To: undisclosed-recipients;
Date: Wed, 10 Mar 1999 17:10:12 EST
Subject: UFMCC Resource Kit for Easter Services 1999
Message-ID: <2d3849f3.36e6edc4@aol.com>
X-Status: Read
X-Mailer: AOL 4.0 for Windows 95 sub 13

A Resource Kit
Prepared By The
Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches

Easter Celebration Service
UFMCC Resource Kit - 1999

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks to Nathan Meckley for writing and compiling this

UFM=

CC

Resource Kit. Nathan served as Executive Associate on the UFMCC

Headquarte=

rs

Staff for more than 10 years and was conference planner for UFMCC General

Conferences and Leadership Conferences. He is available to preach in MCC

congregations and to lead a variety of workshops and seminars. E-mails

inquiring about Nathan's ministry and speaking schedule will be forwarded

=

to your attention.

INTRODUCTION:

Resurrection Sunday, or Easter Sunday, sometimes referred to as "the Day

o=

f

days" or "the Feast of feasts," is the greatest holiday and celebration

of=

the

entire Christian year. Retelling the surprise of Christ rising from the

g=

rave

is a singularly powerful remembrance of the message that God's abundant

lo=

ve

and grace can never be extinguished. Pageantry, exuberance and vitality

ar=

e

all qualities associated with this happiest of occasions. Approach to

wors=

hip

on this, of all days, must be one of great joy and celebration!

LITURGICAL RESOURCES

One: Listen! Hear the remarkable Good News to which we bear witness.
Our

Savior who was dead is alive!
All: Christ is risen!

One: Our Beloved, betrayed, abandoned, crucified and buried is alive

*Easter
Resource*

again=

!

All: Christ is risen!

One: The power of death and fear are broken and no longer hold us captive because Christ lives!

All: Christ is risen!

One: The power of God's love cannot be destroyed. Christ is victorious.

=

Let

us celebrate this most joyful of all days! Christ IS risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN RECOMMENDATIONS

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

=09(text, William C. Dix; tune: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard)

A woman in a world of men*

=09(text, Brian Wren; tune: LARCHES, Veronica Bennetts)

Christ Arose

=09(text and music by Robert Lowry)

Christ is Alive!

=09(text, Brian Wren; tune: TRURO, Thomas Williams)

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

=09=09(text, Brian Wren; tune: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig von Beethoven)

Christ whose glory fills the skies

=09(text, Charles Wesley; tune: LUX PRIMA, Charles Gounod)

Come ye faithful raise, the strain*

=09(text, St. John of Damascus; tune: ST. KEVIN, Aurthur S. Sullivan)

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah

=09(African-American spiritual text and tune)

I know that my redeemer lives*

=09(text, Samuel Medley; tune: SHOUT ON, American folk hymn)

I know that my redeemer lives

=09(text, Samuel Medley; tune: DUKE STREET, John Hatton)

Jesus Christ is risen today*

=09(text, Latin trans. from 14th century, et.al.; tunes: EASTER HYMN, from

Lyrca Davidica or LLANFAIR, Robert Williams)

Now the green blade rises*

=09(text, John M.C. Crum; tune: NOEL NOUVELET, traditional French carol)

O Life that maketh all things new*

=09(text, Samuel Longfellow; tune: TRURO, Thomas Williams)

Sing with all the saints in glory*

=09(text, tune: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig von Beethoven)

That Easter day with joy was bright

=09(text, Latin 5th century; tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Trier, adapt.

Mich=

ael

Praetorius)

The day of resurrection*

=09(text, St. John of Damascus; tunes: ELLACOMBE, Wirtenberg or LANCASHIRE=

,

Henry Thomas Smart)

The strife is o'er

=09(text, Latin 15th century; tune: VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da

Palestr=

ina)

Thine is the glory*

=09(text, Edmond L. Budry; tune: JUDAS MACCABEUS, George Frederick Handel)

NOTE #1: Those marked with " * " are available through The Hymnal Project

MCC San Francisco. The other listed hymns may be found in various sources

and
may require text changes to conform to your local church practice of
inclusive
language.)

NOTE #2: Additional music resources and recommendations are provided
below=
by
Randall Busby, Music Director of MCC Silver Spring/Tacoma Park.

IDEA - ACTION LIST

While you may have no shortage of ideas, here are a few simple ways to
add=
new
life to worship this Easter:

1. White and gold are the traditional suggested liturgical colors for
Eas=
ter.
Use colorful rainbow vestments and paraments in addition or instead;
brigh=
t
Colors can be very appropriate and in keeping with the celebration spirit
of
Easter.

2. A dramatization of the selected Gospel story would greatly enliven
worship. The resurrection scriptures lend themselves ideally and easily
to=
a
simple dramatic reading using several different voices and require
virtual=
ly
no adaptation of the text: narrator, angel(s), Mary, risen Christ, etc.
Staging and costumes are not necessary, but use them if your church has
th=
e
resources and inclination. This is an ancient church practice which, in
fa=
ct,
was the antecedent of medieval "miracle" and "passion" plays which lead
to=
the
rebirth of theater in Western civilization.

3. Most common Easter symbols (lilies, bunnies, chicks, eggs, etc.) are
related to the fact that Easter came to be observed during spring in the
Northern hemisphere. These symbols were interpreted and celebrated as
nat=
ce
reflecting the triumph and abundance of life (spring) over death
(winter).
Consider using additional natural symbols of new life (other springtime
flowers, budding branches, etc.) or transformed life (a butterfly for

example) as appropriate to your geographic location to adorn the church.

4. Pull out all the stops for music! If you have access to professional

=
or
excellent amateur musicians (instrumentalists or vocalists) use them on
Easter. A few specific ideas:

- Easter is a great Sunday to have brass instruments like trumpets for
ope=
ning
fanfares or to enhance choir or congregational singing.

- The praise words "hallelujah" and "alleluia" especially are
particularly
associated with the Resurrection. Follow them as clues leading to music
wh=
ich
may be appropriate to the occasion. There is even a vast repertoire of
ch=
oral
and solo vocal literature setting these words alone in almost every style
imaginable.

5. The joy can continue after worship. Consider an Easter egg hunt;
it's=
fun
for kids and families and for everyone who's watching. Also, have an
East=
er
bonnet parade or contest -- it will be memorable! MCC San Francisco and
M=
CC
Los Angeles have done this for several years with great success. Men,
wom=
en,
adults and children all enjoy this, too! Consider including a potluck
mea=
l or
barbeque. If weather permits hold these activities out-of-doors.

BIO OF THE AUTHOR

=09Nathan Meckley was Executive Associate at the international
headquarter=
s of
UFMCC from 1987 to January 1999. Planning and management of UFMCC
confere=
nces
and serving as assistant to Rev. Elder Donald Eastman were his primary
dut=
ies.
=09Nathan attended Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey
comp=
leting
a Bachelor of Music in Music Education, and earned a Master of Music
degree=
e in
Vocal Performance at the University of Southern California in Los
Angeles.=

=09Nathan has long been committed to local church participation and is
act=

ive at
MCC Los Angeles, UFMCC's Mother Church. He has served on numerous
Committee=
R/s,
was a deacon and a member of the Board of Directors and is former Chair
of=
the
Board of Deacons and former Vice Moderator of the Board of Directors. He
currently ministers in music as a singer and pianist, teaches membership
classes, and coordinates a weekly meditative, Taizé=E9-style worship
service=
es.
He has been involved in men's programming at the local, District, and
Fellowship level, including serving as an instructor in the Sexuality
Study=
ies
department of the former Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies.
=09Nathan is an engaging preacher having spoken at MCC's in Southern
Calif=
ornia
and Australia and he had the privilege of preaching at the 1993 UFMCC
General=
ral
Conference. He has done course work in the Master of Divinity program in
=
the
School of Theology at Claremont, California.

ADDITIONAL EASTER MUSIC RESOURCES

EDITOR'S NOTE: Again, our thanks to Randall Busby for compiling the
music
resources below. Randall is Minister Of Music at MCC-Silver Spring/Takoma
=
Park
in suburban Washington, DC, and serves on the District Education Team for
=
the
Mid-Atlantic District. Comments and suggestions for future music
resources=
=
along with notes of appreciation -- may be sent to Randall's attention at
RFBusby@worldnet.att.net

Introductory Notes

In preparing this resource, we have attempted to reflect the diverse
music=
al
traditions found within the UFMCC. Using the General Lectionary (Cycle
'A'=
) as
a basis, we have suggested musical selections from three distinct musical
traditions: Liturgical/Traditional, Gospel/Evangelical and
Praise/Worship.

The lists below were formulated using eight denominational or general-use
hymnals, along with other musical resources. You will find listed the
Hymn
names (the Title or opening line), along with the Hymn-Tune name. Some
lyrics
are

will need to be included.

In this issue of the Music Resource Kit, we have also included the actual

=

Hymn

Number from each of the source hymnals. When available, we've provided

sou=

rces

to help you find less well-known music for inclusion in the musical

worshi=

p of

your church.

For additional musical possibilities, we would encourage you to actively
evaluate those selections not specifically from your musical tradition.

Remember, even in music, 'different' is good!"

Hymn Sources

B=3DBaptist Hymnal (Southern Baptist)-Convention Press, 1991

E=3DThe Hymnal 1982 (Episcopal, USA)-The Church Hymnal Corp., 1985

G=3DPraise Hymns & Choruses "The Green Book" (Non-Denom)-Maranatha, 1997

H=3DHymns For The Family Of God (Non-Denom)-Paragon Associates, 1976

M=3DUnited Methodist Hymnal-The UM Publishing House, 1989

N=3DNew Century Hymnal (U.C.C.)-Pilgrim Press, 1995

P=3DPresbyterian Hymnal-Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990

W=3DWorship (Roman Catholic)-GIA Publications, 1986 (Future Use)

Z=3DSongs Of Zion (Methodist/Afro-Centric)-Abingdon, 1981

Congregational

Hymn/Tune: Cristo Vive / CENTRAL

Translation: "Christ Is Risen"

Info: Text: Nicolas Martinez, 1960; Pablo Sosa, 1960 (Cantico Nuevo-UMC)

B 167 E 000 G 000 H 000 M 313 N 235 P 109 W 000 Z 000

Hymn/Tune: Christ The Lord Is Risen Today / EASTER HYMN

Alt/Tune: Christ The Lord Is Risen Today / LLANFAIR

Info: Text: Charles Wesley

B 159 E 000 G 017 H 289 M 302 N 233/240(alt.) P 113(alt.) W 000 Z 000

Hymn/Tune: Come, You (Ye) Faithful, Raise The Strain / ST. KEVIN

Alt/Tune:

Info: Text: St. John Of Damascus; c. 8th Century

Tune: Sir Arthur S. Sullivan (yes, as in Gilbert &) c. 1872

B 000 E 199 G 000 H 000 M 315 N 230 P 115 W 000 Z 000

Hymn/Tune: Peter, Go Ring Them Bells / Traditional

Alt/Tune:

Info:

B 000 E 000 G 000 H 000 M 000 N 000 P 000 W 000 Z 097

Hymn/Tune: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah / CWM RHONDDA

Alt/Tune: Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer / CWM RHONDDA

Info: Text: Wm. Williams, 1745; John Hughes, 1907

B 056 E 690 G 000 H 608 M 127 N 018(alt.) P 281 W 000 Z 000

Hymn/Tune: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today / EASTER HYMN

Alt/Tune: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today / LLANFAIR

Info: Text: 14th century Latin; Robert Williams, 1817

B 000 E 207 G 000 H 297(alt.) M 000 N 240(alt.) P 123 W 000 Z 000

Hymn/Tune: The Head That Once Was Crowned With Thorns / ST. MAGNUS

Alt/Tune:

Info: Text: Thomas Kelly, 1820;

Re: Jeremiah Clark (famous for his 'Trumpet Tune') c. 1707

B 000 E 483 G 000 H 000 M 326 N 000 P 149 W 000 Z 000

Hymn/Tune: Camina, Pueblo De Dios / NUEVA CREACION

Translation: "Walk On, O People Of God"

Info: Text: Nicolas Martinez, 1960; Pablo Sosa, 1960 (Cantico Nuevo-UMC)

B 000 E 000 G 000 H 000 M 305 N 614 P 296 W 000 Z 000

Hymn/Tune: All Heaven Declares / ALL HEAVEN DECLARES

Alt/Tune:

Info: Noel & Tricia Richards (Integrity Music, 1997) CCLI #120556

B 000 E 000 G 003 H 000 M 000 N 000 P 000 W 000 Z 000

Hymn/Tune: Glory To The Lamb / GLORY TO THE LAMB

Alt/Tune:

Info: Bill Batstone (Maranatha Music, 1993) CCLI #1187268

B 000 E 000 G 28 H 000 M 000 N 000 P 000 W 000 Z 000

Hymn/Tune: Crown Christ (Him) With Many Crowns / DIADEMATA

Alt/Tune:

Info: Text: Matthew Bridges, 1851; Tune: George Elvey, 1868

B 161 E 494 G 021 H 345 M 327 N 301 P 151 W 000 Z 000

Hymn/Tune: Easter People Raise Your Voices / REGENT SQUARE

Alt/Tune:

Info: Text: William James, 1979; Music: Henry T. Smart, 1867

B 360 E 000 G 000 H 000 M 304 N 000 P 000 W 000 Z 006

Focal

Selection: Alleluia! For Christ Is Risen Today (John 20: 1-18)

Info: J.S. Bach (Concordia) SATB Medium-Easy

Selection: Broken And Spilled Out

Info: Text: Gloria Gaither; Music: Bill George, 1980

As sung by Steve Green (Gaither/YellowHouse Music, 1984)

Found in the collection: 'Steve Green-People Need The Lord'

Sparrow Music #70083

Selection: Mary Magdalene (Matt. 28: 1-10)

Info: Johannes Brahms (H.W. Gray/CPP-Belwin) SATB Easy

Selection: As The Deer

Info: Martin Mystrom (Maranatha, 1984) Meditative/Placid

Also available in Praise Hymns & Choruses "The Green Book" #89

(Maranatha Music, 1984 and 1997) CCLI #1431

Instrumental

Selection: All Creatures Of Our God And Sovereign (King)

Info: Piano/Organ Duet, Moderately Easy

'Best Loved Hymns-Duets For Piano & Organ

Robert Graham (Beam Me Up Music/CPP-Belwin) #F16910DX

Selection: Christ Doth End In Triumph

Info: Organ/Trumpets, Advanced/Difficult Organ Part

'Sound The Trumpet, Volume II, Music For Organ & Multiple Trumpets'

>From Bach's 'Christmas Oratorio' (Joyous triumph of the Resurrection)

Dale Tucker, ed. (HW Gray/CPP-Belwin) #GB00674

Selection: Now The Green Blade Rises
Info: Organ/Trumpet Duet, Medium
'Sacred Solos For Trumpet And Organ'
Lanni Smith (Lorenze Publishing) #PP316-C2

Ideas For Worship

In many churches, Easter Sunday is the best attended service of the year.

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It
is THE service for folks who may attend only once a year, or those
looking=

for
a church home. Spend time sitting where the people attending the service

w=

ill
sit. If possible, undertake this project at the same time of your Easter
service will take place. Make sure all the lights are on.

>From their vantage point, look at your choir/music area. Try to see it
as =

a

first-time visitor to your church will see it. Are there books,
bulletins,
etc. scattered around? What about chairs, musical instruments and audio
equipment? Make a special point to look at the sides of musical
instrument=

s
(especially grand pianos), are there fingerprints and smears visible to
th=

e

congregation?

In almost every language or culture, one can find a variation of this
wise
advice: "First impressions count."

(END)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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To: lbrowning@igc.org

From: Lea Browning <lbrowning@igc.apc.org>

Subject: UNIFEM Videoconference in the News

Reply-To: lbrowning@igc.apc.org

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

From: Michele Landsberg <mlwriter@web.net>

Date: Sat, 20 Mar 1999 06:51:58 -0500

Subject: [end-violence] UNIFEM Videoconference in the news

Reply-To: end-violence@edc-cit.org

By Michele Landsberg

Toronto Star, March 20, 1999

We think we're wallowing in news, drowning in it, all news all the time — yack radio, 24-hour TV, newspapers piling up, Internet information dividing and multiplying like cells. The verbiage is endless. But the share we get of the world's real news is equivalent to a single note of an entire Beethoven symphony, one tune-up squeak of the global orchestra.

Every day, events take place that barely rate a paragraph in the paper, and yet will go on sounding and reverberating in millions of humans lives for decades to come.

Just such a world-shaping event took place in the General Assembly of the United Nations on March 8, this century's last International Women's Day. UNIFEM and other U.N. agencies staged a dramatic and unprecedented live videoconference entitled "A World Free of Violence Against Women". It was a huge success, yet was barely acknowledged by North American media.

For the first time in modern history, the attention of world leaders and international civil servants was seized and focused on what the conference speakers called "the pandemic" of sexual, physical and emotional violence against girls and women. That, my friends, is consciousness-raising on a global scale.

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Content-Disposition: inline

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From: KMJX@aol.com

Full-name: KMJX

Message-ID: <4efe5126.2429573a@aol.com>

Date: Tue, 23 Mar 1999 15:44:42 EST

Subject: Fwd: UNIFEM Videoconference in the News

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I thought this would interest you.

Kathy

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Ambassadors from most of the United Nations member countries filled the vast and beautiful chamber of the General Assembly. Nelson Mandela and Jean Chretien both sent videotaped statements. The heads of all the major U.N. agencies jostled to get in line to send a message of support. Nearly 2000 audience members, including U.N. workers and New Yorkers, crowded the hall.

The audience sat hushed and riveted as live video statements beamed in from every continent. A Rwandan woman spoke of the months of sexual torture she and her daughters endured; an Irish woman described her brave struggle to escape domestic violence; a shy young woman in New Delhi told how she fought back legally against the husband and in-laws who brutalized her (from the very moment she arrived in her wedding robes) because her dowry didn't include a car.

As videotape rolled, and the spectators gazed into the sad eyes of little African girls who had been sexually mutilated, "traditional" practices like female genital mutilation (FGM) that might have seemed mere words on paper until that moment suddenly took on the air of intolerably cruel criminality.

It's really impossible to over-estimate the significance of the videoconference. For the first time ever, women of the majority world (Asia, Africa, Latin America) spoke directly to the white minority of the industrialized north and described not just their own suffering but their own increasingly militant, organized and successful activism.

It's only a blink of time --- scarcely more than a decade --- since the subject of wife-battering caused Tory MPs in our own House of Commons to erupt with crude jokes and sneering laughter. So it shouldn't be hard to understand that most of the world's cultures simply expect girls and women to endure, silently, a fate that may include being sold into sexual slavery, being beaten and burned, traded as beasts of burden or treated as household slaves or spoils of war.

Now, their male compatriots are paying attention. I like to imagine just how startled some of them might have been as women like Dr. Nahid Toubia, the first woman surgeon in the Sudan and a tough-talking campaigner against female genital mutilation, strode to the podium and talked boldly of women's sexual rights.

In cultural and social terms, this event was a stunning innovation. Imagine the audiences around the world for the satellite broadcast. At 40 sites across the former Soviet Union --- Yerevan, Baku, Tbilisi --- they gathered. At the Hong Kong Convention Centre, at Spain's University of Alicante, at the auditorium near the dental clinic in Zimbabwe's Parirenyatwa Hospital, at the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce, on TV in Angola, Germany, France and Uganda, at hundreds of locations across North America --- they gathered and watched.

For those women who feel battered and bruised by the right-wing media backlash against feminism, the videoconference offers a healing perspective. From the global vantage point, where figures like Secretary General Kofi Anan or World Bank chief James Wolfenson attended to the conference with great seriousness, the shrill and capering little backlash figures in Canada --- the criminal lawyers who defend rapists by attacking women --- the Howard Stern-style fathers' rights extremists --- look small

silly and irrelevant. World change for women is increasingly in women's own hands; it will go on.

[***Moderator's note: The videoconference can still be seen via the World Wide Web at <<http://webevents.broadcast.com/unifem/women>>. Also, tapes can be ordered. For information on ordering a tape, please send a message to: Sushma Kapoor <sushma.kapoor@undp.org>.***]

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